



SPRING / SUMMER 2009

LYME ART ASSOCIATION NEWS & EVENTS

90 LYME STREET • OLD LYME, CONNECTICUT 06371

Important July Fundraiser "Make a Grand Entrance"

by Susan Ballek, Publicist

Lyme Art Association's walkways are more than in need of a curb appeal makeover; the terrace is disintegrating and dangerous, and also not what architect Charles Adams Platt initially envisioned.

LAA is working to rebuild the existing walkways, and plans are underway to create a walkway from the front door to the studio door, wrapping around the side of the historic building. All three of these paths will be made of a material and style that Platt would have used.

Historic landscape architect, Sheila Wertheimer, and architect, Roger Clements, researched Charles Platt's original plans and plans he put to use at other locations. From this they have come up with the new plan for the LAA.

To show off these exciting projects and to raise funds to continue their progress, LAA will host a "Make a Grand Entrance" cocktail party on July 11th in the galleries.

"Make a Grand Entrance" will include much more than cocktails, music, art and food. The evening will offer a drawing for a monthly floral arrangement from the talented floral designer **Carle Steele**, proprietor of **Elements** in Old Lyme.

Small paintings created by LAA elected artists will be auctioned off. Each panel sold will come with a generous frame discount from **Joel B. Marzi's Essex House of Framing** in Centerbrook, CT.

Attendees will have the opportunity to purchase bricks or tiers of bricks through the "Buy a Brick" campaign. And, the future plans will be on display for guests to see.

"This is not only the first event for the newly formed Development Committee but also the kick-off to the fundraising campaign that will raise funds for the building restoration," says Chairman of "Make A Grand Entrance," Vice President of LAA, and Development Committee member, **Eliza Sharp**. Adds Sharp, "The committee is thrilled to present this gala event and hopes that the community shares this feeling and supports these vital undertakings."

"Make A Grand Entrance" will take place on July 11 from 6pm to 8pm. Tickets are \$35 and can be purchased at Lyme Art Association, 90 Lyme Street in Old Lyme or call LAA at 860-434-7802.

"It would be nice to make the front of the building look loved. We care about it," says Wertheimer. "It's important because it's in dire need. The front was never finished. An asphalt walk is going to such a beautiful building. It's an awful introduction and doesn't introduce the site well."

Explains Clements, "The key element and the thing that drove the project was that the LAA was extremely short on funds when they built the building so they never really finished the project that Platt laid out for them." He adds, "the initial concept we tried to follow was to finish what he had shown on his drawings and bring this to fruition."

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Cocktail Fundraiser

July 11, 6-8 p.m.

Tickets: \$35

More Than Just Cocktails!

Enjoy Music, Art, Food

Drawing for monthly flower arrangement from floral designer

Carla Steele,

Elements, in Old Lyme.

Auction of small paintings by

LAA Elected Artists

Accompanied by generous framing discount from

Joel B. Marzi's

Essex House of Framing,

In Centerbrook, CT.

"Buy a Brick" Campaign purchases.

Future Building Restoration
Plans on Display.

Tickets can be purchased at
Lyme Art Association,
90 Lyme Street, Old Lyme
or call 860-434-7802.

Welcome
Susan Ballek,
New
Director of LAA!
See Page 2 for Details.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Over the past seven years, Anna Grenier's enthusiasm, dedication, and infinite commitment to LAA's mission and her support of members, staff

and volunteers has contributed to the strength and growth of LAA. Many of us take for granted what goes on behind the scenes, but during Anna's tenure she has developed an exceptionally strong and diverse Education Program, provided excellent support to the Board of Directors and its varied Committees, served as a very knowledgeable resource to our members, and provided an informed liaison with our community partners. She played a pivotal role in bringing our new web site on-line and our Elected Artist Book to completion.

Anna is retiring from LAA and taking on new challenges and a new staff-twins! While we are delighted with her

news from a personal perspective, she will be sorely missed. We extend heartfelt thanks to Anna for her tireless and skillful efforts on behalf of LAA.

When we learned of Anna's decision to leave, a Search Committee was commissioned with the task of finding someone who would build and expand on the strong foundation of programs and plans set in place by Anna and the Board of Directors. As a result of our three month search process, it is my pleasure to announce that we have hired Susan Ballek as the new Executive Director for Lyme Art Association.

Susan was the Collections Manager & Director of Visitor Services at LymanAllynArt Museum; before that, she was Director of Education at the Connecticut River Museum. Susan brings to LAA a wonderful mix of experience with exhibitions, education, and development, rounded out nicely with excellent

business skills. A native of Lyme, she has strong ties with our local community and many of our members. We are delighted to welcome Susan to LAA and we are very optimistic about our prospects in managing future challenges and opportunities.

Susan's first official day of work was Tuesday, May 26. Anna remained on full-time staff until mid-June and continues to be available on a part-time basis as Susan transitions into her new position.

Please join me in congratulating both of these very capable and talented women.

Katherine Simmons, *President*
LAA Board of Directors



Susan Ballek,
Executive Director



Bon Voyage! Jim Christley

Good-byes are never easy, but they are tempered when that someone is following a dream and moving on to exciting new turf. Such is the case with our Elected Artist Jim Christley, who waited patiently for his wife to retire from her teaching position,

and then wasted no time this June packing off to his new home near the ocean in St. Augustine, Florida. Jim has studied watercolor fundamentals with Lou Bonamarte, Gerald Levey and Bob Spring. He applies them to painting what he loves – the ocean and ships. His ship and harbor scenes are loose, lively and full of color, while his studies of waves present such dramatic action they strain the ability of their frames to keep them contained. Jim knows waves and the power of their force well from his long career in the U.S. Navy, where he served in the Submarine Force aboard diesel, nuclear fast attack and ballistic missile submarines for 20 years. He also taught in the Submarine School of Advanced Engineering and consulted for the Navy for the next 17 years. We all recognize Jim as the quiet man behind the laptop, cataloging us in at every Receiving Day. Jim will stay a member and send paintings when he can. We will miss his riotous jokes and his eternal optimism. But we are so pleased that he is moving on to his own ocean painter's paradise.



Board of Directors 2008 – 2010

President, Katherine Simmons

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Secretary, Steven Ross

Treasurer, John Beatty

Gayle Asher, Roger Clements, Jan Royce Conant,

Kerry Eaton, Paul Goodnow,

Justine McEnerny,

Shella Wertheimer

[Support: George W. Baker]

Artistic Policies & Exhibition Committee

(APEX) 2007 – 2009

Chairperson, Roger Clements

Roger Bucci, Jan Royce Conant, Kerry Eaton,

Emily Griswold, Bill Hanson,

Jim Magner, Yves Parent, Eliza Sharp, Kent Winchell

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Education Director, Membership and

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Assistant, Lesley Moore,

Publicist, Susan Cornell

Building Maintenance, Ray Mazzonuzzio

LAA News & Events is a publication of the

Lyme Art Association, a non-profit institution.

LAA supports the creation and appreciation of

representational art work, the heritage of Old Lyme painters

and the preservation of

the LAA Historic galleries.

Lyme Art Association

90 Lyme Street Old Lyme, CT 06371

Tel. (860) 434-7802; Fax (860) 434-7461

Email: info@lymeartassociation.org

Hours: Tues-Sat 10-5, Sun 1-5, Closed Mon

www.lymeartassociation.org

THE 2009 MEMBERSHIP HANDBOOK is available to ALL
members and members-to-be.

Stop by the LAA, or call Krissa at (860) 434-7802 to arrange for mailing.



Art Notes

A Breath of Spring! 3rd Annual Floral Event

Every gallery of the LAA danced with beautiful flowers and spring vibrancy on the last weekend of May, the 29th, 30th and 31st. Members of the **Essex Garden Club** selected paintings hanging in the 88th Annual Elected Artists Exhibition and created floral arrangements inspired by the paintings. Some arrangements emulated the color messages of their paintings while others interpreted the subtle moods or evocative statements of their chosen works. Each floral arrangement was displayed beside its chosen painting, creating an extraordinary artistic experience for all who attended the Friday evening preview party or visited the gallery throughout the weekend.

Essex Garden Club President Linda Levene said, "It's an honor for our club to have been selected to create the floral arrangements for *A Breath of Spring*. This is a wonderful opportunity for us to demonstrate the talent within our club and to share our love of nature with others."

The *Breath of Spring* Chairperson is LAA's Gardens and Ground specialist, **Sheila Wertheimer of Wertheimer Associates**, a landscape design firm in Old Lyme with 20 years of horticulture expertise throughout southeastern CT.

According to Sheila, "Each year, I enjoy

working with a local garden club, as I introduce the flower arrangers to the galleries, sensing the excitement as each one chooses a piece of art, and then the thrill at seeing the finished flower arrangement. We have talented, hard-working garden clubs in southeastern CT."

The LAA would like to express its sincere appreciation to all members of the Essex Garden Club who made *A Breath of Spring* a success, and to **Laysville's Coffee's Country Market** in Old Lyme, CT for donating a food platter for the Friday evening reception.



July - Artist Demos at the LAA

Ever wished you could watch a professional artist at work? Ever wondered how another artist handles the same problem you are dealing with in your current painting or drawing?

Be at the LAA's Studio on any or all July Friday afternoons from **July 10th through July 31st, at 1:00 pm**, and enjoy your chance to learn a new technique, share ideas and gain a deeper insight into how art is created by our very own LAA Elected Artists.

The fee is \$10 per demo or \$30 for all 4 demos.

- July 10th **Laurel Friedmann** – Pastel
- July 17th **Diane Aeschliman** – Oil Portrait & Figure
- July 24th **Lou Bonamarte** – Watercolor
- July 31st **Jack Montmeat** – Portrait Drawing



June - December 2009 EXHIBITION CALENDAR

June 26 – August 2

Summer Painting & Sculpture Exhibition
All four galleries

Guest Jury

Receiving: Monday, June 22, 3-7 pm

Opening: Friday, June 26, 6-8 pm

Removal: Monday, August 3, 3-7 pm

Anything Goes at the Midsummer Festival:

July 24 & 25

Displayed downstairs & on the lawn.

August 3 – August 10

Gallery Maintenance

August 14 – September 20

Cityscape Exhibition: Exploring the Architecture and Life of Town & City;
Cooper/Ferry Gallery & South Gallery

Works on Paper

Goodman Gallery & Cole Gallery

Receiving: Monday, Aug. 10, 3 – 7 pm

Opening: Friday, Aug. 14, 6 – 8 pm

Removal: Sunday, Sept. 20, 3 – 5 pm

Artist Study & Sketch Sale

Labor Day

September 25 to December 5

New England Landscape Invitational

Member Jury: TBA

Receiving: Sunday, Sept. 20, 3 – 5 pm

Opening: Friday, Sept. 25, 6 – 8 pm

Removal: Sunday, Dec. 6, 3 – 5 pm

December 11 to January 9

Deck the Walls

Cooper/Ferry Gallery, Cole & South Gallery

Member Show

Goodman Gallery: Newly Elected Artists

Member Jury: TBA

Receiving: Sunday, Dec. 6, 3 – 5 pm

Opening: Friday, Dec. 11, 5 – 7 pm

Removal: Sunday, Jan. 10, 3 – 5 pm

Holiday Open House Event: TBA

Out on the Lawn: Old Lyme's Midsummer Festival

It is hard to imagine that the world has revolved a full year and we are back to summer again! Come celebrate with us at Old Lyme's **Midsummer Festival Friday, July 24 & Saturday, July 25.**

On Friday evening, from 5-7pm the LAA will hold a **Midsummer Reception** with music and refreshments to show off two great exhibitions: **Summer Painting & Sculpture** in the galleries and our **Anything Goes Art Sale** outside on the lawn and downstairs.

Out on the lawn is where you want to be on Saturday. The lawn will host a collection of friendly farm animals for professional artists to draw and paint. Drawing supplies will be available for everyone to join in. The Friends of the Old Lyme PGN Library BookCellar will be selling paperback books under the trees for \$0.50 each or 12 for \$5.00.

The LAA lawn will also be this year's spot for the **Old Lyme Volunteer Fire Department's** award-winning chili and hot dog cookout. Beverages will be available. This is their annual fundraiser so be sure to plan a stomach-filling lunch with the Volunteer Firemen.

Thanks to
Joan Martin



Special thanks to **Joan Martin of Flowers on the Green**, Guilford, CT for providing the flowers on Fri. March 6th at the opening of the *Spring Painting & Sculpture Exhibition*. Thanks also to the team of **Joan Martin, Cora Ogden and Judy Chapman** for the catchy riddles in lucite photo stands sprinkled about the galleries. Which Impressionist Artist was ridiculed for his Odalisque? Who was the American in Paris? Who might have shouted, "Lend me your ear!"? Bravo!



wishes to thank the following donors

the patio renovation

- Anne Bingham Pierson, MD
- Art & Hilde Reichenbach
- Marcia Murphy, Pfizer Volunteer Program

"Make a Grand Entrance"

Joel B. Marzi, Essex House of Framing
21 Westbrook Rd, Centerbrook, CT
www.onlineframing.com

"Make a Grand Entrance"

continued from page 1

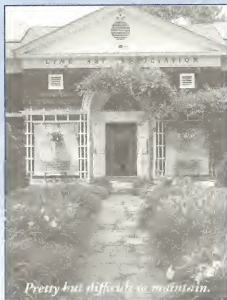
"They were very short on cash in the early 1920s when they were working on the building, so we figured let's see what we can do to continue on with the original project and are trying to be guided as closely as we can," said Clements.

On the architectural, Clements has tried to have a historic document that relates to everything in the new plan. While some compromises must be made to meet today's requirements, "we've looked at as authentic materials as we can track down that are appropriate to its current use," he said.

Since exterior lighting in the 1920s was "not a big thing," the architects have tried to be "relatively subtle about the lighting," Clements explains. He has found on two of Platt's buildings lighting that he used that was "novel, unique for the time, and that we could emulate."

The banners currently seen on the front of the building were originally on flagpoles whose bases are still in the front lawn and underneath the urns. The proposal includes "putting those back on flagpoles and back where they belong."

The patio was likely built at the time the building was built and probably wasn't built as it should have been," believes Wertheimer. "There's a half-moon missing and it's also very dangerous. It really needs



to be repaired."

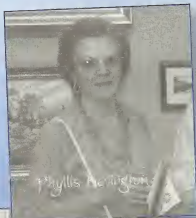
The original plan did not specify which pavers were used for the patio, "so we're choosing what we think he would have used or could have used and also using more modern, non-slippery pavers because now it's possible. It's a public space and we don't want people slipping on wet pavers," she says.

"It's doing a number of other things that will make the thing look reasonably the way Platt had designed it," said Clements.



Honoring Our Front Desk Volunteers of 2008 - 2009

- | | | |
|---------------------|------------------|---------------------|
| ■ Loretta Bernier | ■ Mary Devins | ■ Sylvia Marsh |
| ■ Phyllis Bevington | ■ Dodie Diamond | ■ Barbara McWhirter |
| ■ Meg Cunningham | ■ Elizabeth Lamb | ■ Britt Sinay |



WELCOME to our newest front desk volunteers:
Pat Darby, Diana Glass, Irene Laime and Lilly Markons

BE A FRONT DESK VOLUNTEER.

We especially need volunteers on Saturdays. Please call Krissa at 860-434-7802



Catch the LAA's Next Four Great Summer Exhibitions

The Summer Painting & Sculpture Exhibition, June 26 to August 2, always promises the flashy brilliance of summer color, a plethora of ships and the sea, of flowers and meadows, of unexpected faces and architecture tucked into luscious landscapes – all captured with fine artistic workmanship. The show honors both Elected and Associate Artists and will be juried by panel. This show's chosen image (shown above) is "Riding the Wave," an oil by the LAA's President, **Katherine Simmons**.

If you leave this exhibition empty handed but with a painting still calling to you from the wall, remember that you can visit it and even purchase it on line by going to www.lymeartassociation.org and clicking on Exhibitions, Current.

On July 24 & 25, LAA will hold its *Anything Goes* art sale during Old Lyme's Midsummer Festival. Out on the lawn if the weather cooperates, and also in the downstairs gallery, LAA artists will present smaller works at sale prices. You can find just the gem you are looking for, as a gift or just for yourself.

August 14 to September 20 will treat us all to the **Cityscape Exhibition: Exploring the Architecture and Life of Town & City**, also an all-member show. This show will be preceded in July by group plein air painting trips to New London and southeastern CT towns.

Finally, at the close of the summer season, Labor Day Weekend, Sept. 5-7, will feature an **Artist Study & Sketch Sale** – yet again a chance to fetch a work of your favorite LAA artist at sale prices.

Artists

CHALLENGE !!! Urban Plein Air

MONDAY, AUGUST 10, 3-7pm

Receiving Day

Cityscape Exhibition:
Exploring the Architecture and Life of Town & City

Past experience: This show produces the smallest turnout of any of our regular exhibitions.

Join an LAA Paint-out in local towns on Saturday, July 18.
Call Krissa, 860-434-7802

Architecture, Gargoyles, Sidewalk Cafes
Ever wanted to paint a bus?

Whatcha' Scared Of ?

Gallery Talk

Elected Artists' Exhibit "Best in Show" Voted By the Viewing Public



Congratulations Elected Artist **Jack Montmeat** for *The Orchid*, an oil voted "Best in Show" by the many art lovers who took the opportunity to catch the light of the **88th Annual Elected Artist Exhibit** hanging in all four LAA galleries through Saturday, June 21st.

Viewers were asked to drop their paper ballot votes into an aqua glass jar in the gallery foyer as they were leaving. Jack will receive a gold leaf plein air frame, donated by **George A. Areso** of **Wholesale Frame Company**, Meriden, CT

Works of each Elected Artist were hung together on the walls so they could be appreciated as a group. This prompted many positive comments from viewers and requests to know more about the artists.

Every painting was also displayed on the LAA's updated Website in the Current Exhibition section, with provision for purchasing directly from the website.

Jurors for this exhibition were **Diane Aeschliman, Jan Royce Conant, Jim Wagner, Sandra Wakeen** and **Shirley Youngs**.

What's on the Website ? *Better Take a Look!*

Been to the LAA's Website recently? There's lots of new information, just waiting for your fingers to find via your keyboard! We invite you to take a look.

Current Exhibition – View on line all the artwork that's hanging on the walls or sitting on the pedestals in the gallery. You can click on any thumbnail view for an enlargement and more information about the artwork. You will also find the LAA phone number to purchase artwork on-line. This is a wonderful way to "revisit" the show after you've strolled through the gallery, especially if a painting or sculpture keeps calling you back in your mind and you have regrets about not purchasing it.

Upcoming Exhibitions – View on line all the key dates, like Receiving Day and Opening Reception. Use the link here to the prospectus for each upcoming exhibition; then use the links to the Inventory Sheets and Exhibition Tags (PDF and Word Doc) so you can be ready for the Receiving process when you walk in the door.

Newsletters – You can go back and read on line all of the Newsletters that exist back to 2004. You will find them in PDF Format.

Press Releases of Current Events – View what's happening or planned at the LAA. Perhaps you'll want to participate.

Day-by-Day Calendar – This calendar looks just like the one on your kitchen wall or office cubicle. It shows upcoming exhibitions, workshops, Board of Directors meetings and events, and is updated as necessary. You can put important dates on your personal calendar ahead of time and not miss out on the yummy hors d'oeuvres at the next Opening Night or that all-important discussion at the next Board of Directors meeting.

Classes and Workshops – Listed in chronological order. You can also access bios of the instructors, which include links to their personal websites.

Gallery Rentals – What a wonderful idea for a wedding, anniversary party, retirement party, corporate luncheon or just about any other type of celebration. Get creative. You will find gallery room dimensions, floor plans and a copy of the LAA's gallery rental contract.

JOIN US FOR A MEMBERS' BBQ

Thursday, July 16th • 6:00 p.m.

All LAA Members are invited!

All-natural hamburgers/hot dogs from
Four Mile River Farm, Lyme, CT and a
vegetarian option will be provided.

Beverages will be provided.

Please bring your favorite side dish or dessert

R.S.V.P.

Krissa Ressler by July 9th

860-434-7802

Member Highlights

Want to Brag About Yourself or Brag About an LAA Member Friend?

Contact barb.mcwhirter@att.net with your name and relevant information.

Elin Larson, *Associate Artist*, presented her one-person watercolor paintings and textiles exhibition, "The Path Chosen" at the Town and County Club of Hartford during April. The title was intended to suggest her life's journey through exploring and discovery of painting and weaving. The Hartford club, established in 1925, is for dynamic women leaders of Hartford, and is housed in an 1895 residence on the National Register of Historic Places.

Catherine Elliott, *Elected Artist*, has won Best in Show at the CT+5 Exhibition, West Hartford Art League, juried by Patricia Hickson, curator of Contemporary Art at the Wadsworth Atheneum. Almost 500 pieces in all mediums from all-New England were entered. Catherine received a cash award and a one-person exhibit commitment at the West Hartford Art League.

Barbara Lussier, *Elected Artist*, was interviewed as a plein air painter by Stephanie Summers for her Community Channel program, *Artists & Authors*. The segment featuring Barbara aired twice each on a Monday, Thursday and Saturday in early May and was available to numerous local community channels.

Angie Falstrom, *Elected Artist*, and her miniature watercolors were featured in an 8-page spread in the Winter 2009 edition of *American Artist Watercolor*. The article, "Beauty on a Small Scale," resulted from a joint show of Angie's and Jodi Muench's small works at the Cooley Gallery, Old Lyme, last summer.

Muriel Miller, *Elected Artist*, was represented this past spring in the 65th Annual Connecticut Artist Juried Exhibition at the Slater Museum, Norwich Free Academy, Norwich, Ct. This exhibition features CT artists and photographers.

Sandy Wakeen, *Elected Artist*, is the only CT painter whose work was selected for the Oil Painters of America 18th National Juried Exhibition, opening May 1st at Sage Creek Gallery, in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

THE BULLETIN BOARD

INTERNSHIPS AVAILABLE

■ SUMMER ART INTERNSOUGHT

College or High School Student
Art or Art Business Major
preferred.

To help with the daily running of
the gallery, plus staging receptions
and fundraisers.

Please go to www.lymeartassociation.org for further

details

■ DEVELOPMENT INTERN

College or Graduate Student
Business or Development Major.

Please call Krissa at
(860)434-7802

■ DONATIONS APPRECIATED

- Funds to upgrade LAA computer systems
- Funds for a microphone, podium and speakers
- Wheelbarrow
- Daffodil bulbs for fall planting

■ SAVE LAA PRESS CLIPPINGS

Please save clippings of LAA
press from newspapers &
magazines.

LAA relies on our membership
for these important documents
to go in our archives.

Thank you!

UPCOMING WORKSHOPS



Plein Air Figure Painting

Anthony Watkins, Instructor

July 11 & 12, 9-4 pm
Saturday & Sunday

Fee: \$275 for Members

\$325 for Nonmembers

During the two days of this workshop, Anthony will demonstrate his painting technique and produce a complete figure painting from the live model in an outdoor setting. At each stage of the painting he will explain the concepts he uses to create a convincing, lifelike portrait which captures the look of outdoor light and color. Topics that will be covered are drawing, values, how sunlight affects color, how to see color and value as a unit, how to record the features of the model to create a likeness and how to see and understand direct light, ambient light and reflected light.



To the Beach!

Doug Smith, Instructor

July 18 & 19 10-5pm
Saturday & Sunday

Fee: \$150 for Members

\$200 for Nonmembers

Escape the heat and cool your feet at the beach. Though a challenge logistically, beach painting offers a world of color and sunlight you will not find in other locations. This workshop is recommended for painters who have experience painting on location and who are adept at working in small format. Students are advised to work in 6x8 or 8x10 inch sizes using a pochade (sketch) box. The goal will be to complete one or two paintings in each three hour session. Drawing, picture composition and value relationships will be the focus of this workshop.



Watercolor:

Simple, Fast & Focused

Mel Stabin, Instructor

July 27-31, 9:30-4pm

Monday – Friday

Fee: \$675 for Members and Nonmembers

This 5-day, outdoor watercolor workshop, painting landscapes and people in landscapes, reflects the title of Mel's book, *Watercolor: Simple, Fast and Focused*. Emphasis is on design principles with the objective of building strong paintings by seeing and thinking simply, painting quickly and energetically, and focusing on the "idea" of the painting. Mel paints in a loose, representational style. Color/value relationships, design and composition will be stressed in daily demonstrations with personal instruction, critiques and a step-by-step simple explanation of solutions to every problem presented by the subject. For beginners to advanced painters.

URGENT MESSAGE

The LAA needs

SATURDAY VOLUNTEERS

For the Front Desk

10:00a.m. – 2:00p.m.

and

2:00p.m. – 5:00p.m.

Please call Krissa at

(860)434-7802



LYME ART ASSOCIATION

90 Lyme Street

Old Lyme, CT 06371

www.LymeArtAssociation.org